



THE INTENSITY OF A POINT

part II

This month's question is a follow up to the September 2008 VHD article "The Intensity of a Point."

Louise R. was wondering if I was writing about all of the breeds tested in NAVHDA or of just the "G's" (GSP, GWP, and Griffon). Louise has a French Spaniel who wags her tail on point and she said this is normal for the breed. In a UT test her dog received a four in pointing. If Louise takes her dog to the Invitational next year will the judges score the pointing lower because of the

wagging tail? Louise suggests that each breed has their own particular characteristics and should be judged accordingly.

I chose this question because it allows me the opportunity to impress upon our membership that when a handler chooses to bring his/her dog to a NAVHDA test, whether it is a Natural Ability, Utility Preparatory, Utility, or the Invitational Test, ALL breeds of dogs are evaluated under the SAME criteria as published in the NAVHDA Aims, Programs, and Test Rules book. Judging standards

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VC Lagibeciere Merlin proves the point. The field Judges agreed that this French Spaniel, owned and handled by Yves Dubois, earned a 4 in pointing at the 2008 Invitational.

are not lowered, raised, changed or altered in any way depending upon which specific breed of dog is being evaluated at that time. NAVHDA does not discriminate against any breed eligible to run in our sanctioned events. All dog performances are evaluated against the exact same standards regardless of breed.

If Louise's French Spaniel earned a four in pointing in a NAVHDA UT Test, three judges observed the dog's pointing behavior during the thirty minute field portion of the test. Each judge evaluated the individual pointing opportunities during the run and arrived at their own overall score in pointing for that thirty minute performance. The three judges then reached a consensus pointing score. If the judging team awarded a four in pointing, I feel certain that the dog in question displayed enough INTENSITY on point that the tail movement was not significant enough to lower the pointing score to a three or below.

When Louise takes her dog to the Invitational the same standards and procedures will be followed. The dog will run with a brace mate in the field for an hour. Each time her dog points, "INTENSE, convincing, unmistakable and productive" will be evaluated and scored accordingly. The judges will independently arrive at their score for the dog's overall pointing performance during each bird contact during the one hour run. At the conclusion of the

field event the judges will reach a consensus for each area of evaluation, including pointing. The criteria for evaluating pointing will not change for different breeds of dogs or levels of a NAVHDA test. The pointing stance must be intense, convincing and unmistakable as a point and in the end must be productive. In summary, all breeds, in all levels of NAVHDA testing are evaluated based on the same standards as set forth in the NAVHDA *Aims, Programs, Test Rules* book.

Correction: In my first article published in the August 2008 issue of the VHD comparing the UPT and UT tests there was a mistake in the total steadiness requirements in the field. The UPT steadiness total should have read 3 2 1. The UT steadiness totals should have read 3 2 1. I regret the error. I know at least a few people are reading the articles as I have been approached at several tests this fall and have had this error politely pointed out to me. Thank you.

Please send your questions concerning testing and judging in the NAVHDA system to me at chipnavhda@aol.com. Thank you.